

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MONROV 02441 081539Z

45

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 L-03 IGA-02 AID-05 EA-07 SAJ-01

EUR-12 COME-00 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00

FMC-01 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 OMB-01 ACDA-07

(ISO) W

----- 121899

R 081445Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9705

C O N F I D E N T I A L MONROVIA 2441

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRN, LI, CH

SUBJECT: LIBERIAN REGISTRATION OF PRC-OWNED SHIPS

1. SUMMARY. IN A FOREIGN MINISTRY NOTE GOL IS SEEKING OUR VIEWS ABOUT PRC'S REQUEST TO REGISTER 18 PRC-OWNED SHIPS UNDER THE LIBERIAN FLAG. SOMALI REGISTRATION OF THESE SHIPS IS TO BE CANCELED BY OCTOBER 1976. ACTION REQUESTED: SINCE THIS MATTER COULD SERIOUSLY AFFECT OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS, DEPARTMENT'S GUIDANCE IS REQUESTED IN REPLYING TO NOTE. END SUMMARY.

2. FOREIGN MINISTRY HAS SENT NOTE TO EMBASSY ON SUBJECT MATTER, ESSENTIAL PARTS OF WHICH ARE AS FOLLOWS:

QTE...HAS HONOR TO BRING TO ITS ATTENTION RECENT REQUEST WHICH GOL HAS RECEIVED FROM GOVT OF PRC TO TRANSFER TO LIBERIAN FLAG EIGHTEEN VESSELS THAT ARE PRESENTLY OF SOMALI REGISTRY. THESE VESSELS ARE FOR CHARTER TO CHINESE GOVT. GOL UNDERSTANDS THAT SOMALI REGISTRY OF EACH SHIP WILL BE CANCELED NOT LATER THAN OCTOBER 1976.

QTE MINISTRY WISHES TO INDICATE THAT ALTHOUGH OUR MARITIME REGULATIONS PROHIBIT VESSELS DOCUMENTED UNDER LAWS OF LIBERIA FROM TRADING WITH COMMUNIST CHINA, COMMISSIONER OF MARITIME AFFAIRS MAY IN WRITING GRANT THIS PERMISSION FOR SUCH TRADING

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MONROV 02441 081539Z

TO TAKE PLACE. HOWEVER, GOL WISHES TO INDICATE AT THIS JUNCTURE

THAT BECUASE OF VERY CLOSE TIES OF FRIENDSHIP SUBSISTING BETWEEN GOL AND USG AND BECAUSE OF CERTAIN POLICIES OF USG GOVERNING GRANTING OF AID AND ASSISTANCE TO RECIPIENT COUNTRIES WHICH RESTRICT SUCH COUNTRIES FROM TRADING WITH COMMUNIST COUNTRIES, GOL HAS DEEMED IT APPROPRIATE TO SEEK CLARIFICATION FROM USG AS TO EXTENT TO WHICH AFORESAID REGULATIONS IS NOW EXTANT.

QTE PRESENT SITUATION OF DETENTE BETWEEN EAST AND WEST, ESPECIALLY BETWEEN SOVIET UNION AND US WHICH HAS RESULTED IN ENORMOUS INCREASE IN TRADE BETWEEN TWO GOVERNMENTS, AND CONSIDERABLE IMPROVEMENT IN RELATIONS BETWEEN USG AND GOVT OF PRC LEADS GOL TO BELIEVE THAT PERHAPS REGISTRATION OF VESSELS IN QUESTION MAY NOT IMPAIR HARMONIOUS RELATIONSHIP EXISTING BETWEEN GOL AND USG. HOWEVER, GOL SHOULD WISH TO CONSULT WITH USG ON THIS MATTER BEFORE PROCEEDING ANY FURTHER THEREWITH. UNQTE.

3. THERE APPEARS TO BE NO US LEGAL PROHIBITION ON GOL REGISTERING PRC-OWNED SHIPS. US-GOL RELATIONS COULD, HOWEVER, BE AFFECTED IF WE ARE FORCED TO DISCONTINUE OUR ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAM BECAUSE OF ONE OF THESE SHIPS CALLED AT PORTS OF COUNTRIES MENTIONED IN SECTION 620 (A) -- CUBA -- AND SECTION 620 (N) -- NORTH VIETNAM -- OF FAA ACT OF 1961 AS AMENDED. FOREGOING IS BASED ON COPIES OF LEGISLATION AVAILABLE AT POST AND HENCE SUBJECT TO MODIFICATIONS ON THE BASIS OF MORE RECENT LEGISLATION.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: SINCE THIS MATTER COULD SERIOUSLY AFFECT OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS, DEPARTMENT'S GUIDANCE IS REQUESTED IN REPLYING TO NOTE.
BEAN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SHIP REGISTRY, FOREIGN RELATIONS, INSTRUCTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 APR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976MONROV02441
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760134-0418
From: MONROVIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760483/aaaacsyo.tel
Line Count: 92
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24 JUN 2004 by greeneet>; APPROVED <18 OCT 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LIBERIAN REGISTRATION OF PRC-OWNED SHIPS
TAGS: ETRN, LI, CH, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006